

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00229 041726Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 NIC-01 ACDA-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-05

OES-05 COA-01 BIB-01 /101 W
----- 013659

R 041625Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMOL PINR IC

SUBJECT: FONMIN COMMENTS ON FINDING OF SOVIET SONAR BUOYS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0210, 0211, 0225

1. CRITICAL NEWS MEDIA HAVE RECENTLY PRESSED FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON ON REASONS WHY SOVIET SONAR BUOYS WERE TURNED OVER TO IDF FOR ANALYSIS AND ON WHAT TREATY OR OTHER LEGAL BASIS IT WAS DONE. IN ANSWER TO HOSTILE QUESTIONING BY COMMUNIST-LINING NEWSPAPER THJODVILJINN, AGUSTSSON SAID: "THE REASON IS THAT WE ARE IN THE NATO DEFENSE ALLIANCE AND THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTS NATO IN ICELAND. ACCORDING TO THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, SUCH COOPERATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED NORMAL. WE DO NOT HAVE THE FACILITIES TO DO RESEARCH ON THIS TRASH OR WHATEVER ONE OUGHT TO CALL IT AND IT SEEMED NATURAL FOR THE DEFENSE FORCE TO INVESTIGATE IT IF WE ARE TO LEARN ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT THE NATURE OF THESE BUOYS."

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ORDERED THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD TO DELIVER THE BUOYS TO THE DEFENSE FORCE, AGUSTSSON REPLIED: "NO, I HAVE NOT ORDERED ANYONE TO DO ANYTHING. THE STORY ABOUT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00229 041726Z

THE BUOY FOUND IN 1972 NEVER REACHED MY DESK AND I FIRST HEARD

ABOUT IT FROM A NEWSMAN ON TELEVISION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF THE RECENT ONES AND I DO NOT CONSIDER IT ABNORMAL THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE SHOULD INSPECT THEM."

3. WHEN SIMILAR QUESTIONS WERE RAISED BY SDP NEWSPAPER ALTHYDUBLADID, AGUSTSSON SAID: "THERE ARE NO ARTICLES IN THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH SPECIFICALLY SPELL OUT THAT BUOYS AND OTHER SUCH STRANGE OBJECTS ARE TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE DEFENSE FORCE AT KEFLAVIK. BUT THERE ARE IN THE AGREEMENT ARTICLES ABOUT COOPERATION WHICH WE LET GOVERN THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT. IN MY TERM OF OFFICE AS FOREIGN MINISTER, I HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY DEALT WITH ISSUES OF THIS TYPE."

"WHEN THE COAST GUARD TURNED OVER A BUOY TO THE DEFENSE FORCE IN 1972, IT WAS DONE WITHOUT CONTACTING OR CONSULTING MY MINISTRY. THAT ISSUE COMPLETELY BY-PASSED MY DESK AND NO REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON IT. NOW, ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO GET A REPORT FROM THE DEFENSE FORCE AND HAVE ALSO MY REPRESENTATIVE, HANNES GUDMUNDSSON, PRESENT AT THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH ARE CONDUCTED HERE AND HE WILL GIVE ME A REPORT WHICH WILL BE A BASIS FOR COMPARISON."

MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, PRESS COMMENTS, OCEAN EXPLORATION, ELECTONIC EQUIPMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975REYKJA00229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0223
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750384/aaaacxuy.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 REYKJAVIK 0210, 75 0211, 75 0225
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <23 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN COMMENTS ON FINDING OF SOVIET SONAR BUOYS
TAGS: MMOL, PINR, IC, UR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006